

UNITED STATES GOV

Memorandum

Tolson ☒
 Parsons ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Callahan ☒
 Conrad ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans ☒
 Malone ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Tavel ☒
 Trotter ☒
 W.C. Sullivan ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Ingram ☒
 Gandy ☒

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-5-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

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SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]

Radio Station KGCX WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA
 INQUIRY RE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

B' gather
file
4-10-61
76

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated 3-28-61 captioned individual enclosed a copy of a news clipping which quotes a letter from the Director to Senator Milton R. Young. The letter to Young points out that the Director has not endorsed the John Birch Society (JBS) and that the Director did not make a statement to the effect that up to 80 per cent of the top officials of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are communists. This clipping appeared in the Minot, North Dakota, "Daily News." [REDACTED] feels that most of the readers of the newspaper as well as himself gather that the Director is condemning the JBS, but he feels that the Director would not actually mean to condemn the society. He states that while he believes that the Director means just what he said and that he had not endorsed the JBS, others try to read between the lines and come up with the meaning that "If Hoover does not endorse it, it must be a lousy outfit." [REDACTED] states that he is not trying to "squeeze" an endorsement of the JBS out of the Director, but desires a statement that would clarify the situation.

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In addition, [REDACTED] states that he has tried to find the statement regarding the Department of Health, Education and Welfare officials being communist in JBS material without success. He asks if the JBS actually did credit the Director with the statement and cleared the situation. He would also appreciate any other statement the Director would desire to make concerning the organization and in closing stated that he was asking God to bless the Director's efforts in these trying times.

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INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 4-9-86 BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote the Director 10-17-60 requesting communist information for an anticommunist program to be given in the city. His letter was acknowledged 10-25-60 and was furnished several communist reprints. It was noted that there was no other information in Bufiles identifiable with [REDACTED]

Enclosure *sent* 4-7-61

REC-95

1 - Mr. DeLoach
 1 - Mr. Morrell

50 APR 21 1961

62-104401-1097

12 APR 18 1961

ELC:par (5)

CORRESPONDENCE

Jones to DeLoach Memo

RE: [REDACTED]

Inquiry Re John Birch Society

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INQUIRY RE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY:

The letter which is quoted in the clipping enclosed by [REDACTED] is a letter from the Director to Senator Milton R. Young dated 3-10-60. This letter was sent at the request of Senator Young who contacted your office on 3-9-61. He stated that he and Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana had blasted the JBS on the Senate Floor the previous day and he had been amazed at the reaction. He had received criticism from members of the society and he had had several communications that alleged that the Director had endorsed the JBS. Senator Young was told, of course, that this was a patent falsehood and that the Director had never endorsed any groups and certainly did not issue a statement defending the activities of the JBS. Senator Young then mentioned that members of the organization had informed him Mr. Hoover was the source of information for the assertion that up to 80 per cent of the top people in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are communist or communist supporters. The Senator was told that this was a ridiculous claim, it had already been brought to the Director's attention, and it had been promptly nailed as an incomplete fabrication and falsehood.

Senator Young stated that if^{or} all possible he would like to have a short note from the Director regarding the above matters and the 3-10-61 letter was sent to him containing the same general information as was furnished over the telephone. Senator Young's telephone call was brought to the attention of the Attorney General in a memorandum to him dated 3-10-61 and it was also pointed out that by letter dated 3-1-61 the Director had advised the Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff that the Statement concerning officials of Ribicoff's Department had erroneously been attributed to the Director.

As a matter of interest, the statement that between 70 and 80 per cent of the responsible officers in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are members or accomplices of the communist conspiracy has been researched in an effort to determine the original source. The October, 1959, issue of "American Opinion" contained an article entitled "A Review of Reviews" by Revilo P. Oliver, in which he stated he had consulted in Washington several weeks previously with persons intimately acquainted with the operations of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare who confirmed the estimate made some time previously by entirely different sources that between 70 and 80 per cent of the responsible officers of the Department are members or accomplices of the communist conspiracy. He further pointed out in this article an intensive "mental health" campaign is under way within the Department to purge it of all employees of anticommunist tendencies. "American Opinion" is published by Robert Welch, Inc., Belmont 78, Massachusetts, and is edited by Robert Welch,

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Jonesto DeLoach Memo

RE: [REDACTED]

Inquiry Re John Birch Society,

who is the founder and leader of the JBS. A brochure concerning JBS received in March, 1961, reveals that Revilo P. Oliver is a Professor of Classical Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois and he is a member of the council of JBS. It is noted, however, that "American Opinion" began operations before the JBS was formed. We have received information in the past concerning the above-mentioned statement that it was made in a speech by Oliver in March or April of 1959 and there was some implication that his source might have been Herbert Philbrick. Philbrick was contacted and denies making such a statement or even having any knowledge of the operations of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Further, he has only met Oliver on several occasions. The fact that Oliver made such a statement in March or April, 1959, speech is as far back as we have been able to trace it.

RECOMMENDATION

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That the attached letter be sent to [REDACTED] briefly pointing out that the FBI does not evaluate organizations and that the statement concerning the Department of Health, Education and Welfare officials was contained in the October, 1959, issue of "American Opinion."

Handwritten signatures and initials:
- Top left: *WJH*
- Top middle: *ADH*
- Top right: *PH*
- Middle left: *AKH*
- Middle center: *Q*
- Middle right: *GH*
- Far right: *V.*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: April 10, 1961

FROM : Mr. DeLoach

SUBJECT:

KFDA-TV
AMARILLO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR TO
FURNISH TAPED COMMENTS RE
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Tolson ☒
DeLoach ☒
Mohr ☒
Bishop ☒
Casper ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
Felt ☒
Gale ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Ingram ☒
Gandy ☒

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Mr. who advised he was with KFDA-TV in Amarillo, Texas, called at Noon today and spoke with SA Leinbaugh in my office.

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Mr. stated that his station is preparing a program regarding the John Birch Society and that it is tentatively scheduled for this coming Thursday night. He asked whether or not it would be possible for Mr. Hoover to prepare a brief tape regarding his views on the Society. Mr. was advised that in view of Mr. Hoover's extremely heavy schedule and the short notice that it would not be possible for Mr. Hoover to help. He was further advised that, of course, the FBI does not furnish evaluations of groups and that it would not be possible to lend assistance in connection with their proposed show.

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Mr. had heard about the Director's introduction in the current issue of the Law Enforcement Bulletin warning of vigilante action. He was advised that this introduction was not aimed at any specific group but that it warned against hysteria and vigilante action and pointed out the necessity for fighting communism with rational knowledge and facts. He was told that this was a public statement and that he could quote from it if he so desired. He wanted to know if it was true that Mr. Hoover had neither endorsed nor condemned the John Birch Society and he was told this was a correct statement.

162-104401-
NOT RECORDED

Mr. requested permission to tape Leinbaugh's replies to his queries. This request was declined.

The above is for your information.

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239
1 - Mr. Parsons
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
63 APR 21 1961
HPL:miw (5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-4-86

12 APR 14 1961

RESPONSE

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

March 22, 1961

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
 THOMAS J. ANDERSON ✓
 T. COLEMAN ANDREWS ✓
 SPRUILLE BRADEN ✓
 LAURENCE E. BUNKER
 F. GANO CHANCE
 STILLWELL J. CONNER
 RALPH E. DAVIS
 S. M. DRASKOVICH
 REV. RICHARD GINDER
 WM. J. GREDE*
 E. P. HAMILTON
 A. G. HEINSOHN, JR.*
 GRANVILLE F. KNIGHT
 FRED C. KOCH*
 ALFRED KOHLBERG†
 CLARENCE MANION*
 FRANK E. MASLAND, JR.
 N. FLOYD MCGOWIN
 W. B. McMILLAN
 REVILO P. OLIVER
 COLA G. PARKER
 M. T. PHELPS
 LOUIS RUTHENBURG
 J. NELSON SHEPHERD
 JAMES SIMPSON, JR.†
 ROBERT W. STODDARD*
 CHARLES B. STONE, III
 PAUL H. TALBERT

*Executive Committee
 †Deceased

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

You are, I know, a very busy man. And I would not even consider asking for enough of your time for you to read the enclosed letter, if the matter covered there were not so important -- important not just to me, but to the whole anti-Communist cause in our country.

If you are able and willing to spare the time to read the enclosed copy -- the original was mailed to one of our ablest patriots in Congress -- I believe you will agree that the use of your time for the purpose was worth while. And I can assure you that the favor will be appreciated by a lot of people besides me who are now giving their whole lives to supporting patriots like yourself, in an effort to save for our children and their children some semblance of the glorious country which we ourselves inherited.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch
 Robert Welch

RW:mlp

P. S. One of our current brochures is enclosed, just in case you might wish to see it after reading the letter. RW

62-104401-1111

9 APR 19 1961

CRIME RESEARCH

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MAR 24 1961

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58 APR 24 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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2 ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

REC-94

329-61

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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

March 20, 1961

Honorable.....
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr.:

This morning I have received from one of our members a copy of your memorandum concerning The John Birch Society, which he says you sent him with the comment that you had previously prepared it for your own information. And I want you to know that your generous and entirely fair comments about us are deeply appreciated.

And under ordinary circumstances I certainly should not write, nor expect you to read, anything more than our simple note of thanks in the sentence above.

But with the enemy now closing in, with ever more assurance and through every conceivable channel, on the informed anti-Communists of this country, these are anything but normal circumstances. Mr. Khrushchev himself has informed his followers that destruction of anti-Communist groups is one of the major objectives for 1961. It is long-standing and well recognized Communist strategy to use the "divide and conquer" tactic. And despite the fact that the anti-Communist forces in this country still have enough strength right now completely to destroy the Communist conspiracy, the Communists are clearly counting on paralyzing this opposition by divisiveness. And there never was a clearer applicability of Benjamin Franklin's admonition, that we had better all hang together or we will all hang separately, than in the situation which confronts the anti-Communists in the United States today. So I hope you will spare the time to let me, just briefly, bring you up to date as to why somebody has pushed the button to start the nation-wide pro-Communist propaganda machine turning out attacks on us -- many of these attacks, of course, by perfectly honest liberals who did not even realize that they were part of a Communist-inspired campaign.

Our members have been responsible for literally thousands of presentations of the film, OPERATION ABOLITION, put together by the House Committee On Un-American Activities, showing the Communist-planned and Communist-led riots in San Francisco -- because that film is likely to wake any patriotic American up to just what is already starting to happen in this country. Our own salaried Coordinators have many prints of this film in constant use, and just how many prints our different chapters or various individual members throughout the country have bought and are using, there is no way of our knowing. A great many conservatives have endorsed the film. But I would be willing to bet my life right now without hesitation that members of The John Birch Society throughout the country -- whether they are usually acting or appearing as members when showing this film at service clubs, Church groups, schools, and similar audiences -- have

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-2-86

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been responsible for more showings of this film than all other groups and individuals in America put together. And we have had plenty of reports to indicate that the ACLU is aware of this, even if many of our anti-Communist friends are not.

Washington Video Productions, of course, actually made our own film, which we use in presentations by our field men, to small groups, of the background, methods, and purposes of The John Birch Society. We were delighted to learn that they were handling the commercial supply of OPERATION ABOLITION. And I would further bet that, while there would be no indication to them that the purchasers, on the orders coming in for the film, were members of The John Birch Society, quite a strong percentage of these purchasers have been our people. And I know that, because of the unusual dedication and willingness to work on the part of our members, the prints in their hands have been shown, and are still being shown, more frequently and more continuously than those owned by most other groups or individuals. And I believe that it was at least partly because of the enemy's inability to stop our people from making such extensive and repeated showings of this film that the enemy has now resorted to putting out various doctored versions of its own, with distorted or falsified sound tracks and various other changes designed to make the film discredit itself or serve the opposite purpose from that for which it was intended by the HUAC.

Our people have also been responsible for the production, and then during the past two months for literally thousands of showings, of a film strip called COMMUNISM ON THE MAP, which merely depicts factually the steady geographical advance of Communism since 1917, and especially during the past fifteen years. This film strip was conceived, prepared, and produced by an ardent member of The John Birch Society, partly from our materials. And it has been so effective that it was being shown very extensively at naval installations all over the country, by naval personnel until -- according to reports we have now received -- leftwing influences of some kind were able to get these showings by and for naval personnel stopped almost entirely. But of course such influences have not been able to stop our people from their own regular and extensive showings of the film strip elsewhere at all.

Also, the Liberals have not been able simply to laugh off, as they had obviously expected at first, our long-range campaign to get Chief Justice Earl Warren impeached. As has become increasingly clear in our monthly bulletins, we did not intend this drive as a flash-in-the-pan effort, and we were well aware of the magnitude of the task set for ourselves. Our intention is eventually, through tremendous and sufficient effort, to make enough of our fellow citizens aware of the issues involved and the values at stake to bring about the impeachment of Warren before the Court led by him can finish its destruction of our Constitutional Republic. The Communists and their sympathizers and dupes do not like -- and appear to be frightened over -- the battleground we have chosen for this long and steadily increasing attack.

It is because of these and similar activities on our part, as well

as because our steady growth and the dedication of our members represent such a potential threat to the Communist Conspiracy, that this whole campaign has been unleashed against us. Its increasingly central theme is: "Of course we like what The John Birch Society is trying to do, but we can't stand their methods." They disguise and vary the wording somewhat, so as to keep the continuity of this theme from earlier programs being too obvious. But in very slight disguise it is now popping up everywhere. And I certainly do not have to tell you the significance of that method of attack.

For these and many other reasons we have become one of the prime targets of those who wish to carry out Mr. Khrushchev's instructions to destroy anti-Communist groups, and of those who are helping Mr. Khrushchev's agents without knowing what they are doing. Of course the smear campaign is a combination of truths, and half truths, and vicious falsehoods made out of whole cloth, with the combination varying with the "respectability" of the publication or the group making the attacks. Also, of course, many of these groups are making completely unethical use of a private confidential letter which I wrote years ago, of which not a copy has ever been sold or offered for sale, and which was never offered or intended for publication, or as anything but a private confidential letter. Every copy I have ever let a friend read was sent out by registered first-class mail, return receipt requested, with the package carefully marked as confidential and with a covering letter further stressing the fact that this was and had been simply a confidential expression of personal opinion and interpretation. By the time The John Birch Society was even founded I had stopped making copies of this "long letter," we were letting it fade out of the picture, and it has never been any part of the materials of The John Birch Society in any way. At least ninety-five percent of our members had never even heard of the "letter" until it began to be mentioned and quoted in the various attacks on us -- obviously through some breach of confidence somewhere along the line.

But this has merely been a handy weapon for the Communists, pro-Communists, and their dupes and sympathizers to use. Without it they would have found or manufactured plenty of others. And in fact, even now, quite a number of the most vicious recent attacks on us have been on entirely other bases. We are supposed to be fascists, or anti-Semitic, or something else equally dastardly, despite the fact that there is not one iota of evidence, in either our materials or our operations, to justify such charges. One of the most widely used smears against us has been based on nothing more than the fact that we have whole-heartedly and emphatically agreed with our founding fathers about both the horrors of a democracy and the equally strong advantages of a Constitutional Republic, as a form of government -- and have distributed tens of thousands of brief articles explaining the difference. (As well as literally millions of envelope stickers calling attention to the fact that there is a huge difference.) And since converting this Constitutional Republic into a mobocratic democracy, as a step towards a centralized tyranny, is one of the things the Communists and their dupes and sympathizers have been working on intensively and extensively for a long time, they are naturally going to stop our efforts and our opposition if they can.

The whole question, as to whether America survives against the destruction and enslavement planned for it by the Communists, depends on how well and how firmly the anti-Communists stand together, or how easily they allow themselves to be hacked to pieces separately. And although I am sure you know this, I could not refrain from reminding you of it in connection with the current attacks on us and other developments since your memorandum was written.

Starting absolutely from scratch only a little over two years ago, we now have about twenty-eight people here in the Home Office, about thirty Coordinators in the field who are fully paid as to salary and expenses, and about a hundred Volunteer Coordinators who are paid only a part or none of their salary and expenses. We have developed a formula, of organization and growth and operation, which is so productive of dedication and real work and effectiveness, that its possibilities are disturbing the Communists more than anything which has happened since they destroyed Joe McCarthy. If all of Joe McCarthy's friends had stood by him through thick and thin, there is no telling how many exposures of Communists, or in how high places, might have taken place by now, or how helpful it would have been in this struggle which engulfs us all. The Communists may be able to destroy us by the same tactics they used on McCarthy. But I doubt it, because we are never going to stop fighting at any turn. We intend to win this struggle -- or at least to help mightily towards doing so -- despite the fact that it is now "after eleven o'clock." To that end we certainly need all of the moral support we can get from such informed and patriotic Congressmen as yourself -- and partly for the support that our members can give you and all other patriots in turn.

So, being most appreciative of the memorandum about us which you have been sending to your constituents, we are simply asking that, as a part of your own patriotic sacrifice and effort, you continue to do whatever you can, whenever you can, to have the facts about us presented fairly, and the real background, methods, and purposes of The John Birch Society properly understood. And with all good wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

RW:th

From Our Mail

These messages and extracts are selected from the thousands that now pour in on us every month. Though much too flattering, they do not feed our vanity, we can assure you. Instead, they increase our solemn consciousness of the staggering responsibility we have assumed. But they do make the unceasing hard work seem all the more worth while, and strengthen our determination to live up to that responsibility so far as it is humanly possible, with God's help, to do so. We reprint these comments here in the hope that our members, and many friends and prospective members, will share with us the inspiration received from such words of

APPRECIATION and ENCOURAGEMENT

"Since the day I saw the tape, where you appeared on the screen, I have intended to write you --

"If people who see and hear you, on that tape (film), are not stirred to their very souls, to want to be a part of this great work you are doing, there must be something wrong --"

A Housewife In California

"Again, may I thank you for all that you have done and are continuing to do, not only for me, but for this wonderful country of ours -- somehow I feel that its destiny lies a great deal in your hands."

A Student At Yale

"It is indeed good to belong to an active, directed unit of a growing army in this struggle with the Communists, and we are deeply grateful for the superb quality of the strategy, direction, and dedication provided by your leadership."

A Working Mother In Wisconsin

"My wife and I have never been so inspired as by your program and by the potential of what can be accomplished through The John Birch Society."

A Business Executive In Arizona

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DATE 4-4-80 BY

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Michigan

Mrs. Harmon L. Brown
Richard Durant
Irving E. Ingraham
Vernon P. Johnson, M. D.

Mississippi

Tullins Brady

Missouri

William R. Schneider

New Jersey

Mrs. Frederick Griswold, Jr.
Mark M. Jones
Ross Nichols
Louis S. Wegryn, M. D.

New Hampshire

C. B. Robinson

New Mexico

George S. Richardson, M. D.
Lt. Gen. James P. Riseley

New York

Mrs. Kenneth C. Crain
Frank de Ganahl
E. Ainsworth Eyre
Vice Adm. C. S. Freeman
Norman J. Gould
Earl Harding
Merwin K. Hart
Mrs. Seth Milliken
T. I. Parkinson, Jr.
Commodore Frederick G. Reinicke
Archibald B. Roosevelt
George M. Tisdale
Jesse C. Williams

North Carolina

Melick W. Blades
J. C. Peele, M. D.

Ohio

Harold Blacker
Charles W. Pavey, M. D.
Hon. Gordon H. Scherer

Oklahoma

Glenn O. Young

Pennsylvania

Frank W. Gaydosh
Mrs. T. E. Payne

Rhode Island

Robert B. Dresser
Norman D. MacLeod

South Carolina

Roger Milliken
Thomas Parker, M. D.

Tennessee

J. P. McCallie
T. Walker Lewis

Texas

John R. Anderson
Akard Beall
Mrs. W. L. Goldston
W. H. Kellogg
Brig. Gen. W. L. Lee
Col. L. E. Limbert
Edward D. McKay, M. D.
J. Nye Ryman
Major Gen. W. G. Weaver
J. O. Webb
Brig. Gen. T. F. Wessels

Utah

Capt. and Mrs. Stephen Abbot
Hon. J. Bracken Lee

Vermont

William S. Schlamm

Virginia

E. S. Dillard
James G. Martin, IV
Matt McKeon
Capt. R. W. Orrell

Washington

P. C. Beezley
Fred M. Harris
Col. Tom R. Hutton
Harry M. Robbins

West Virginia

Luther O. Griffith

Wisconsin

Mrs. Walter K. Graham
Mrs. Robert A. Murray
Mrs. Norman Skogstad

Wyoming

Dan Hanson
A. E. Larson

"But on one man's soul it hath broken,
A light that doth not depart;
And his look, or a word he hath spoken
Wrought flame in another man's heart."

62-104401-1111

DOC LAB NOTE

ITEM (S)

CAN NOT

BE SCANNED

DESCRIPTION

BOOK

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

March 23, 1961

Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Founder
ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
THOMAS J. ANDERSON
T. COLEMAN ANDREWS
SPRUILLE BRADEN
LAURENCE E. BUNKER
F. GANO CHANCE
STILLWELL J. CONNER
RALPH E. DAVIS
S. M. DRASKOVICH
REV. RICHARD GINDER
WM. J. GREDE*
E. P. HAMILTON
A. G. HEINSOHN, JR.*
GRANVILLE F. KNIGHT
FRED C. KOCH*
ALFRED KOHLBERG†
CLARENCE MANION*
FRANK E. MASLAND, JR.
N. FLOYD MCGOWIN
W. B. McMILLAN
REVILO P. OLIVER
COLA G. PARKER
M. T. PHELPS
LOUIS RUTHENBURG
J. NELSON SHEPHERD
JAMES SIMPSON, JR.†
ROBERT W. STODDARD*
CHARLES B. STONE, III
PAUL H. TALBERT

*Executive Committee

†Deceased

Dear Mr. Hoover:

May I call your attention to the marked paragraph in the second column of another long article about The John Birch Society in the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN. It appeared in their March 19 issue.

NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

In an earlier article the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN had accused The John Birch Society of a telephone campaign in Nashville, in which members of the Society called up acquaintances and suggested that the next-door neighbors of those acquaintances might be Communists. This, of course, was pure fabrication. And one of our good members of considerable local standing in the area, Mr. Horton Early, took it upon himself, without even checking with us, to look into the basis of this smear. And he sent us a sworn deposition, of which a copy is enclosed, indicating its utter falsity.

Nevertheless TIME magazine, in its viciously distorted article about us, picked up bodily this report of the telephone campaign, from the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, and published it as truth. (Along with so distorted a report of our activities in Wichita that I have had to discourage libel suits on the part of our members.)

Now all of this was to be expected of the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN and also of TIME magazine. But the statement attributed to "an FBI spokesman in Washington" is hard for me to believe; and of course I have no confidence whatsoever in the veracity of the publication quoting this "spokesman." So we thought the matter should at least be called to your attention, and we would certainly appreciate any denial or comment on your part which would be helpful.

With my continuing admiration, respect and regards, I am

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

Robert Welch

APR 19 1961

CRIME RESEARCH

~~EXP. PROC.~~

MAR 24 1961

2 ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

58 APR 24 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-4-86 BY [redacted]

DEPOSITION

13 1961

Deposition of Horton F. ~~Early~~, taken on the 11th day
of March, 1961 in Nashville, Tennessee. APPROX. 1413

The deponent, after being duly sworn, deposes and states
as follows:

That he is a citizen and resident of Nashville, Davidson
County, Tennessee, 48 years of age, owner and operator of the Air
Filter Sales and Service Company, and that he is Leader of Chapter
No. 110 of the John Birch Society.

That under date of February 28, 1961 the Nashville
Tennessean, a daily newspaper published and circulated in Nashville,
Tennessee, published an editorial wherein the writer made many
statements concerning the leadership, policies, and program of the
John Birch Society, including the following statement: "Telephone
calls warning one that his 'own next door neighbor might be a
~~communist~~' is a despicable practice, made the more so when the next
door neighbor is also called and given identical warning."

That in response to this editorial the deponent sought

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DATE 4-4-86

NASHVILLE TENN.

out the author of the editorial, Gene Graham, on Wednesday, March 8, 1961, nine days after the date of the editorial, for the purpose of questioning him concerning the content of the editorial, as well as the purpose thereof.

That during the course of the interview the said Gene Graham, in reply to a question from the deponent admitted that:

(1) He had not read the Blue Book of the John Birch Society. CW

(2) He admitted that the portion of the editorial having to do with an alleged calling campaign was prompted solely by one telephone call to the author of the editorial, wherein the caller stated that an individual of her acquaintance, in a personal conversation in discussing the John Birch Society generally had said "How do you know that even your own next door neighbor is not a communist?" He admitted further that his caller did not even

identify the person that was reported to have said this as being a member of the John Birch Society.

(3) He could not offer any other fact to sustain the allegation made in the editorial that there was a calling campaign being conducted as had been inferred, and that his allegation was based entirely upon the heresay described in the one telephone call set out above.

Further the deponent sayeth not.

Horton F. Early, being first duly sworn, makes oath that he has read the foregoing instrument and that the statements contained therein are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

This 11th day of March, 1961.

Horton F. Early
Horton F. Early

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 11th day of March, 1961.

William J. Burton Jr.
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: Jan. 31, 1963

UNITED STATES GO'

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-29-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ROBERT WELCH, FOUNDER
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

Welch has written the Director two letters, one dated 3-22-61, the other 3-23-61. His first letter expressed the hope that the Director would have the time to read a copy of a letter which Welch had sent to a Congressman. Also enclosed with the letter was a brochure of The John Birch Society (JBS).

Welch's second letter enclosed a copy of an article by Pat Anderson which appeared in the 3-19-61, issue of the "Nashville Tennessean" concerning the JBS. This article contains three references to the FBI: (1) In connection with its educational program to combat communism, the JBS "distributes such books as J. Edgar Hoover's Masters of Deceit...."; (2) The Franklin, Tennessee, chapter of the JBS considered the Society an educational forum and "at one meeting a member reviewed Hoover's Masters of Deceit."; and (3) concerning criticism of the JBS, "An FBI spokesman in Washington said last week the FBI has been 'looking into' activities of the society. He said FBI would characterize the society as 'irresponsible but not subversive.' He said many professional anti-Communists are tied in with the society for the purpose of making money through speeches."

With regard to the statement attributed to "an FBI spokesman in Washington," Welch stated it was hard for him to believe and he had no confidence whatsoever in the veracity of the publication quoting this "spokesman." Welch said he would appreciate "any denial or comment" on the Director's part which would be helpful.

Welch also forwarded with his letter of 3-23-61 a copy of a sworn deposition of Horton F. Early, a Nashville businessman, who is the leader of Chapter 110 of the JBS. Early's deposition related to an article in the 2-28-61 issue of the Nashville Tennessean which accused the JBS of a telephone campaign in Nashville in which members of the Society reportedly telephoned people suggesting their neighbors might be communists. Early's deposition indicated this was utterly false.

You will recall that by airtel 3-22-61 (attached) SAC, Memphis, advised that on 3-21-61 Horton F. Early contacted our Memphis Office concerning the

Enclosures:

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Morrell
- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. Belmont

REC-94

EX-103

62-104401-
9 APR 19 1961

BS:kmd (7)

58 APR 24 1961

ALL INFORMATION

DATE 4-4-86

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Jones to DeLoach

RE: ROBERT WELCH, FOUNDER
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

above-mentioned statement attributed to the FBI which appeared in the 3-19-61 issue of the Nashville Tennessean. Early said that in his opinion the quotation alleged to be from an FBI official was a misquote. He said he planned to send the article to the headquarters of the JBS in Massachusetts with the recommendation that they contact the FBI in Washington for clarification relative to the statement. Early said the statement was having the effect of driving many people out of the JBS and he hoped something could be done to obtain some clarification which could be published to end the confusion.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES

We have had limited cordial correspondence with the Nashville Tennessean in the past. Bufiles contain no information identifiable with Pat Anderson who wrote the article on the JBS and allegedly quoted the FBI "spokesman." Bufiles contain no derogatory information concerning Horton F. Early who wrote the Director in November, 1960. Early identified himself as a local Chapter leader of the JBS and requested a statement from the Director concerning the menace of communism which he desired to use in connection with his showing of the film "Operation Abolition" to a group of students. By letter 12-1-60, the Director advised Early that the pressure of official commitments precluded complying with his request. (62-104401-541)

Welch, of course, founded the JBS in 1958. It is allegedly an anticommunist organization; however, during the Eisenhower Administration Welch, in his writings, was highly critical of the President and called him a dupe of the communists. Welch has made other irresponsible statements and currently is behind a campaign to have Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court impeached. We have not investigated the JBS. On 5-3-60, Welch wrote the Director concerning a report from one of his representatives in Texas that the FBI had said the JBS was a group of righteous citizens who did not know the facts. Welch advised there was no one in the fight against communism who had supported the FBI and the Director more than he, and cited the favorable support he had given to Masters of Deceit. The Director wrote Welch on 5-10-60 and advised it appeared that his representative in Texas had been misinformed since the FBI had never made such a comment regarding the JBS. (62-104401)

OBSERVATIONS

The FBI has not publicly characterized the JBS but any reply to Welch might be used by him. He has extreme views, is very opinionated and both he and JBS are particularly controversial in much of the country at this time. No apparent advantage would accrue to the Bureau by a reply but the possibility of becoming embroiled in the current JBS controversy through such action does exist.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the letters from Robert Welch of JBS dated 3/22-23/61 not be acknowledged.

I agree J. A. L. - 2 - JPM 226 OK. K

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Bishop ☒
 Callahan ☒
 Conrad ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans ☒
 Malone ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Tavel ☒
 Trotter ☒
 W.C. Sullivan ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Ingram ☒
 Gandy ☒

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 4, 1961

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ⁽¹⁾ JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS)
MAILING LIST MATTERS

Reference is made to SAC Letter 61-14 (D) dated 3-21-61 concerning the John Birch Society wherein it is indicated that no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives.

Your attention is directed to the attached letter from SAC, Charlotte concerning [redacted] who is a member of the John Birch Society and who is on the Bureau mailing list to receive publications.

The SAC Letter, of course, was prepared to prevent the distribution of quantities of publications to the John Birch Society for their utilization in meetings and in connection with their programs. It is not felt that we should discontinue publications to an individual on the mailing list who happens to be a member of this Society.

RECOMMENDATION:

In a situation as this where a person on the Bureau's mailing list is known to be a member of the John Birch Society, it is recommended that we not remove him because of such membership.

Enclosure

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CRIME RESEARCH

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

DATE: 4/18/61

FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (100-9455)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
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REC-74
EX-102

The San Antonio Light, a daily newspaper published in San Antonio, Texas, in its March 31, 1961, edition, contained an article which reflected that a local spokesman revealed on 3/31/61, there are "several" chapters of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in San Antonio, along with a sizable number in the Alamo city who list their membership with the home chapter in Belmont, Mass.

The number of members, however, was not revealed. One member explained it is against the rules of the organization to reveal the number. There are no officers in the chapters with the exception of chapter leaders. The chapters meet in small groups of ten to twenty members for monthly discussions, the spokesman explained. The meetings are called by the chapter leaders.

C. O. "BUCK" MANN, Odessa, who identified himself as the coordinator for the Society in Texas, said information as to the number of chapters and members in San Antonio was not available and advised the home chapter be contacted.

The April 2, 1961, edition of the San Antonio Light, contained an article which reflected that San Antonio leaders of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY came to its defense on 4/1/61, and argued it is not a monolithic organization compelled to do what its leader, ROBERT WELCH, wealthy retired Massachusetts candy manufacturer, wants it to do. Speaking up were Major General W. G. WEAVER (Ret.), wartime commander of the 8th Infantry Division, who is listed as a member of a national endorsing committee of the society, and Dr. ROBERT TERRELL, leader of one of the several local chapters.

2-Bureau (RM)
1-San Antonio
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EX-102

REC-92

62-104401-1116
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DATE 9-9-86

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SA 100-9455

TERRELL said he does not know how many chapters there are in San Antonio, but that his chapter has 16 to 18 members.

This article in the San Antonio Light further reflected that TERRELL said, "I understand there are other chapters in town, though. Our chapter meets once a month. New members are urged to form their own chapters in order to keep groups small."

TERRELL was also quoted as saying, "I have not run into any fanatics in our chapter. Our primary purpose is to acquaint us with the techniques the Communists use and may try to use. I do not agree with all that Mr. WELCH believes, and we are not required to. I do not believe in the impeachment of Mr. WARREN. I wrote Mr. WELCH on this."

WEAVER described himself as an "indorser" of the Society. He emphasized the aim of the Society is to help the people understand what communism is, its objectives, and to what extremes the communists will go to carry out their objectives and achieve world domination. Like TERRELL, WEAVER said no one is required to accept WELCH's opinion on anything. WEAVER said he is not a member of any local chapter and did not know any such chapters existed until he read of them in The Light.

The 3/31/61, edition of the Waco News Tribune, a daily newspaper published in Waco, Texas, contained an article which reflected that leaders of Mexia's (Texas) chapter of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY say there is nothing secret or semi-secret about their organization. They say they think their national organization has become the subject of a lot of controversy in magazines and newspaper over the country because it is misunderstood and because it is beginning to hurt the communists.

SA 100-9455

MEMBER OF CHAPTER OF THE

V. A. ~~MC~~ CULLOUGH, Coordinator of the Mexia chapter, got in the spotlight when he fired a letter to Time magazine, raking Time over the coals for a recent article on the Society which MC CULLOUGH considered unfair. Time published the letter.

MC CULLOUGH and JOHNNY NEECE, Mexia, ^{TEXAS} lumber man ^{MEMBER} and contractor and former Rice University football player, ^{of} said anybody is welcome to attend their monthly meetings, ^{SECRET} and that it was no secret as to who are members of the ^{ORGANIZATION} chapter. They said the organization's main purpose is opposing communism and promoting the principles of Americanism.

MC CULLOUGH operates a butane gas company in Mexia, is a member of the library board, and is an unopposed candidate for the Mexia City Commission in the election to be held on 4/4/61. MC CULLOUGH said of the local chapter that they definitely are not controlled or dictated to in any manner. He said that it is about as wide open as an organization can be and still be a cohesive organization.

MC CULLOUGH said the Mexia chapter was organized in October, 1960, and as far as he knows is the only one in the Waco area, although he said since writing his letter to Time, he has received a letter from a student at Baylor University, inquiring about the possibility of organizing a chapter in Waco.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-4-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: R. H. ANDERSON
 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
 KVOS, INC.
 INQUIRY RE DIRECTOR'S
 COMMENTS ABOUT THE
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Tolson _____
 Parsons _____
 Mohr _____
 Belmont _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Malone _____
 Rosen _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Ingram _____
 Gandy _____

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated 3-27-61 captioned individual wrote the Director that he was most anxious to verify a statement attributed to a spokesman for the FBI regarding the John Birch Society. He refers to an article in the 3-19-61 edition of "The Nashville Tennessean," written by Pat Anderson and entitled, "Birch Society Has 200 Members Here." The article contained the following:

"An FBI spokesman in Washington said last week the FBI has been 'looking into' activities of the society. He said based on what it knows, the FBI would characterize the society as 'irresponsible but not subversive.' He said many professional anti-Communists are tied in with the society for the purpose of making money through speeches."

Anderson states that it is possible that the statement to which the "Tennessean" referred is also the basis for a reference made in a letter to him from Senator Milton Young. He quotes the Senator as stating "I just could not stand idly by and say nothing when, according to the FBI, the leader of this organization, Mr. Welch, charged in his book 'The Politician' that President Eisenhower and other top-level officials were guilty of being Communists..." Anderson wants to know if any statement concerning the John Birch Society has been issued by the FBI or one of its Agents and if the Director has any opinions concerning the group or its leader.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Anderson wrote the Director 9-16-58 stating that his television station was happy to broadcast information concerning fugitives and suggested that more emphasis could be given if we could indicate in what area the person was last

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Morrell

Enclosure sent 4-6-61

ELC:llh

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APR 19 1961

See next page...

56 APR 21 1961

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Jones to DeLoach
Re: R. H. ANDERSON

seen. By letter dated 9-24-58 he was thanked for his suggestion but it was pointed out that all pertinent information available for distribution is furnished in connection with our fugitive circularization. The note on this letter reveals that Anderson may be identical with a Ronald H. Anderson of Seattle, Washington, who in 1950 wrote the Bureau two letters requesting the answer to several questions of an embarrassing nature concerning the extent of the assistance furnished by the FBI to the Washington State Committee on Un-American Activities, the names of the Agents who assisted this Committee and their duties. Further, why the Director did not answer Bernard DeVoto's challenge instead of attacking "Harper's Magazine." In substance, he was advised that data in FBI files is strictly confidential, no material from confidential files was furnished to the Committee, that the Bureau did not make available its personnel to the Committee in connection with its activities. In addition, he was referred to the published copy of the Director's letter dated 10-7-49 to the Editor-in-Chief of "Harper's Magazine," wherein the Director pointed out that he did not care to dignify DeVoto's half truths with a denial or explanation.

INFORMATION RE ANDERSON'S INQUIRY:

No FBI officials in Washington, D. C., of course, have publicly characterized the John Birch Society, and we have so informed persons in the Nashville, Tennessee, area, some of whom are members of the John Birch Society, who have written to the Director with regard to the article in the "Nashville Tennessean" to which Anderson refers.







With regard to the comments concerning Senator Milton Young's letter to Anderson, it is not known who ^{was} Senator Young's source; however, on 3-9-61 Senator Young contacted your office concerning criticism he was receiving from members of the Society as a result of speeches made by Senator Mansfield and himself blasting the John Birch Society on the Senate floor the previous day. He said that he had several communications indicating that the Director had endorsed the John Birch group. He was told by your office that this was a patent falsehood. Senator Young also stated that members of this organization had informed him of the assertion that up to 80 per cent of the top people in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare were communists or communist supporters and that Director was the source of information for this assertion. He was also advised that this was a ridiculous claim and that it had already been brought to the Director's attention. He requested a short note from the Director concerning this. A letter to Senator Young was sent from the Director on 3-10-61 reiterating in general what had been said over the phone. There was no comment concerning the charges made by Welch, the founder of the Society, in his book, "The Politician." Senator Young's call was called to the attention of the Attorney General by memo dated 3-10-61 and by letter dated 3-1-61 Honorable Abraham Ribicoff of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was advised that a

Jones to DeLoach
Re: R. H. ANDERSON

statement regarding his Department had been erroneously attributed to the Director.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Anderson.

F B I

Date: 3/22/61
PLAIN TEXT

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (100-3727)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

(SM - X)

SECURITY MATTER - MISCELLANEOUS

On 3/21/61 Mr. HORTON EARLY, 1529 Demonbreun Street, Nashville, Tennessee, contacted SA FRANCIS W. NORWOOD, telephonically, at which time he identified himself as the coordinator for the John Birch Societies in Davidson County, Tennessee. He referred to an article appearing in the "Nashville Tennessean," Nashville, Tennessee, on 3/19/61 concerning the John Birch Society. He noted that there was a statement therein reportedly made by a spokesman of the FBI in Washington, D. C., characterizing the John Birch Society. He also noted that he, Mr. EARLY, had been quoted to some extent in the article. Mr. EARLY stated that he had been misquoted in the article and that it was his opinion that the quotation alleged to be from an FBI official was a misquote. He stated that based upon a letter written by Mr. HOOVER, in answer to an inquiry concerning an organization, he had been of the opinion that the FBI took the position of making no statements characterizing any group or organization.

Mr. EARLY asked if SA NORWOOD had seen the article and if any comment could be made concerning the statement therein. He was advised SA NORWOOD had seen the article and

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3- Bureau

1- Memphis

FWN:nmw

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Special Agent in Charge

Sent

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ME 100-3727

would make no comment. He stated that he planned to send the article to the headquarters of the John Birch Society in Massachusetts with the recommendation that they contact the FBI in Washington relative to the statement appearing in the article and seek to get some clarification on it. He stated that if this was the FBI position on the group he did not want to be associated with it. He stated that the John Birch Society desired to cooperate with the FBI and that the members in Davidson County have the highest regard for the FBI. He stated that he felt sure that this was a misquote in the paper but that it was having the effect of driving many people out of the John Birch Societies and he hoped that something could be done to obtain some clarification which could be published which would end the confusion.

The above is submitted for information.

* LETTER RECEIVED TODAY 3-24-61 FROM ROBERT
WELCH RE: THIS MATTER AND IS ATTACHED

[Handwritten signature]

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 3-24-61

There has been no statement made by an FBI official in Washington, D. C. publicly characterizing the John Birch Society.

FJB:td

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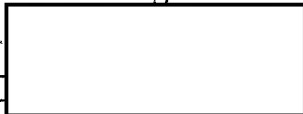
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DATE 11-1-84



DOC LAB NOTE

ITEM ((S))

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DESCRIPTION

Small Book & Newspaper

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